Letter from Anthony Pollok to Alexander Graham Bell, June 14, 1879

Copy of letter from A. Pollok to Alexander Graham Bell concerning the testimony given by David Brooks in the interference suit in the Patent Office, concerning priority of invention of twisted telephone circuits. Original letter in Litigation 2, in “Dr. Bell's Room.” June 14, 1879. My dear Mr. Bell,

I had great pleasure in reading yours of 11th inst. It was gratifying to me to perceive that you have taken the right view of the case of Brooks and apparently understood the object of the Cross Examination.

I feel disposed to let you into the secret of my plan. It is of course confidential for my object will be defeated if the other side get wind of it.

You have no doubt noticed the abrupt manner in which the Cross Examination of Brooks had closed. I had extracted from him damaging statements sufficient to undermine his case; but reserved a series of interrogatories to destroy it, until I shall have had an opportunity of conferring with you. And I propose to proceed in the manner as follows.

As soon as Mr. Hubbard will be ready to be examined I shall give notice of his examination in N. Y. in rebutal. Brooks will no doubt arrive in person. While there I propose to subpoena him 2 and examine him in rebutal on the spot without previous preparation.

Upon the close of his examination I intend to notice a motion for the dissolution of the Interference based upon Brooks' own proof and I feel confident of success. The result of the motion would be a decision awarding you the patent and rejecting Brooks appl. precisely the result we can only hope for as the most favorable issue of the Interference (if it be allowed to proceed with final determination) at the end of 2 or 3 years.

Very truly yours, A. Pollok. I am anxious to hear from Mr. Hubbard when he will arrive in N. Y. — of course you will be present.

Copy of letter from Alexander Graham Bell to his attorney A. Pollok concerning the testimony given by David Brooks in the interference suit in the Patent Office, concerning priority of invention of twisted telephone circuits. Original letter in Litigation 2, in “Dr. Bell's Room.” Cambridge — Mass June 11th, 1879 Dear Mr. Pollok

I have been very much surprised by the contents of Mr. Brooks' Testimony which I have just read. A more extraordinary statement I cannot well conceive.

He never made the invention in controversy — he does not claim to have made it — and he does not believe in it!! These are indeed most extraordinary admissions. His ideas too upon the general subject of Induction have been quite a surprise to me. It would seem from his statements that there can be no Induction without ground connections! Effects due to “Earth Currents” and the “Aurora Borealis” are all classed under the general name of “Induction”! His dates too are as extraordinary as his theories. He observed the effects of Induction upon the line between Altoona and West Philadelphia by means of hand telephone in February 1877 — some months before the hand telephone had been invented! All 2 his dates of early experiments with telephone are unreliable as we know from the dates when telephones were first given to the public. If these are wrong — as they undoubtedly are — how can we rely upon his later dates.

The Experiment of 1852 was not to get over “Induction” at all — but simply to avoid the Earth Currents due to the Aurora Borealis! All “Earth Currents” can of course be obviated by using a line that is not connected with the earth .

The experiments cited of earlier date than October 1877 seem all to have had reference simply to Earth Currents. Indeed he admits in his answer to the 5th interrogatory that the

cause of the rattling sounds he heard in the telephone when he used ground connections was not induction at all — but “Earth Currents.”

He evidently looks upon Induction from neighbouring conductors as due to leakage from one line to another through the earth — for he gives it as his serious opinion, — unchanged up to the present time that the absence of Induction upon a metallic circuit is due “to the nature of the insulation and perfect insulation from the earth.” 3 Ignoring altogether the well known fact that Induction takes place from one metallic circuit to another — when both are perfectly insulated from one another and from the ground. With kind regards.

Yours truly, A. G. B.